

DOE Weekly Field Memo – April 28, 2010

From the Vermont Department of Education:

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Press Release: Vermont Not Applying for Race to the Top

Audience: All

The State of Vermont will not be applying for the second round of the federal Race to the Top grant, the Vermont Department of Education announced this week. The highly competitive grant program, financed under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), requires states to agree to very specific strategies, such as linking teacher pay to student performance, investing in charter schools and implementing turnaround models that could require the removal of principals in a data-driven school-ranking process. To view the complete release, visit

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press_releases.html.

Contact: Jill Remick, Communications Director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us; or Rae Ann Knopf, Deputy Commissioner, at (802) 828-5101 or rae.knopf@state.vt.us

Letter to Education Secretary Arne Duncan on Rural States

Audience: All

This letter, signed by 13 state education commissioners, outlines the concerns and challenges facing rural states related to national education initiatives such as *Race to the Top* and the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Visit

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#rural>.

Contact: Jill Remick at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us

Estimated FY-2010 Final Worksheets A & B Due Friday, May 14th, 2010

Audience: Superintendents, Special Education Administrators, Business Managers

This memo describes the procedures for submitting the Estimated Final Worksheet A and B for FY-2010 and instructions for completing them. Worksheets must be submitted no later than **May 14th** in order to complete the process. Memo and instructions can be found on the Department of Education, Special Education Finance Web page at

http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_finance_sped.html#expenditure_10.

Contact: Margaret Schelley at (802) 828-5119 or margaret.schelley@state.vt.us; or Lisa Allard at (802) 828-0769 or lisa.allard@state.vt.us.

For questions about specific students listed on Worksheet A, contact Donna Trucksess at (802) 828-5931 or donna.trucksess@state.vt.us.

Statewide Rollout: Vermont Item Bank (VT-IB) Assessments Grades 2 – 7 in Reading and Math

Audience: Elementary Reading and Math Educators

There will be two Learning Network of Vermont (LNV) sessions to provide information about and access to the expanded VT-IB Assessments for grades 2 – 7 on May 11 and 12 from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. These assessments are designed to be used locally to monitor student progress in reading and in math. View a list of proposed LNV sites and a registration link for either [May 11](#) and/or [May 12](#). The registration due date is **Friday, May 7, 2010**.

Contact: Marty Gephart at (802) 828-1462 or marty.gephart@state.vt.us

Congratulations School Wellness Award Winners

Audience: All

The annual School Wellness Awards recognize schools whose policies and practices reflect a high priority on healthy outcomes for students. The program is sponsored by Vermont's Action for Healthy

Kids, the New England Dairy Council, and the Vermont Departments of Education and Health. Winners were categorized as follows:

Gold	Fair Haven Grade School (\$500.00 prize) Danville School (\$250.00 prize) Academy School (\$250.00 prize)
Silver	Barre Town Middle and Elementary School St. Albans City Elementary School Swanton Schools
Bronze	Crossett Brook Middle School Fair Haven Union High School

All awardees are invited to a recognition event with Governor Douglas at the annual VTAHPERD Intergenerational Wellness Walk on May 12, 2010 in Montpelier. To register contact Carol Baitz at (802) 244-7195 or cbaitz@wdsdvt.org or click [here](#)

Reminder: ESEA Reauthorization Public Comments Requested

Audience: All

Vermont's congressional delegation has requested feedback regarding the Obama Administration's Blueprint for Reform, which is the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The Vermont Department of Education has generated a preliminary list of issues for Vermont. Please take a few minutes to review this document before suggesting additions or providing feedback/comments. Your voice at this time is important. It is our intent to provide as much useful information as possible on this topic as it becomes available. Visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/laws/nclba/nclba.html#comment> to review the documents and provide feedback. The deadline for comments is **Wednesday, April 28, 2010**. Contact: Carol King, State Board Administrator at (802) 828-5101 or Carol.C.King@state.vt.us

Reminder: 2010 Vermont State Board of Education Martha H. O'Connor Award

Audience: All

The Martha H. O'Connor Award was established by the Vermont State Board of Education in recognition of Martha H. O'Connor's extraordinary contributions and dedication to Vermont's school children throughout her leadership in public education. This award is presented to a private citizen who most closely follows the ideals embodied in Martha's tenure with the State Board of Education. All educators and friends of education are encouraged to make nominations. **Nominations are due June 1, 2010**. Visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html#recognition> for complete information. Contact: Carol King, State Board Administrator at (802) 828-5101 or Carol.C.King@state.vt.us

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.